

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04104 100658Z

53

ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 IO-10 ORM-01

SR-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 SS-15 SY-05 AID-05 DODE-00 SSO-00

/061 W

----- 112176

R 100626Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 540

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 4104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE PAROLEES

REF: STATE 133652

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONSULAR OFFICER SPENT TWO DAYS SCREENING
VN REFUGEES IN PUSAN, IDENTIFIED 570 POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE
FOR PAROLE INTO U.S. REFUGEES DESPONDENT, PARTICULARLY
OHAPPROXIMATELY 400 WHO APPEAR INELIGIBLE FOR RESETTLEMENT
IN ANY COUNTRY BUT STILL HOPE THEIR ORIGINAL INTENTION
TO REACH U.S. WILL BE REALIZED, END SUMMARY.

1. CONSULAR OFFICER CHRISTENSON SPENT JUNE 5 AND 6
AT REFUGEE CAMP PUSAN TO SCREEN REFUGEES FOR PAROLE
INTO U.S. ACCORDING TO CRITERIA SET FORTH REFTEL ROK
HAS ACCEPTED 121 VIETNAMESE WITH FAMILY TIES IN KOREA,
LEAVING 1,193 OF WHICH CANADA MAY ACCEPT 150, FRANCE 23,
ROC 32, AND GERMANY 1, THOUGH THESE FIGURES NOT YET FIRM.

EMBASSY HAS IDENTIFIED 204 POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FAMILIES
TOTALLING SOME 570 INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF WHOM ARE UNABLE
TO DOCUMENT CLAIMED EMPLOYMENT WITH USG OR CLAIMED BLOOD
TIE IN U.S.S.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 04104 100658Z

2. APPROXIMATELY 400 REMAINING REFUGEES HAVE NO OPTIONS

AT PRESENT. NONE OF THESE 400 WISH TO RETURN TO VN AND ONLY ONE IS KNOWN TO WANT TO SETTLE IN ROK. MANY HAVE RELATIVES BUT NOT IMMEDIATE FAMILY IN U.S.; MOST HAVE CLOSE NON-BLOOD TIES WITH REFUGEES WHO MEET OUR CRITERIA FOR PAROLE. ALL LEFT VN WITH EXPECTATIONS OF GOING TO U.S. AND STILL HOPE THAT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BE ACCEPTED BY U.S.

3. CHRISTENSON WAS GIVEN FREE ACCESS TO THE CAMP AND WAS ABLE TO CLOSELY OBSERVE AND EVALUATE CONDITIONS. KOREAN AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN PAINS TO MAKE CAMP COMFORTABLE. KOREAN-STYLE MEALS ARE AMPLE AND REASONABLY PALATABLE TO REFUGEES, WARM BEDDING HAS BEEN PROVIDED, SHOWER AND TOILET FACILITIES ARE ADEQUATE. VIETNAMESE HAVE ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT INTERNAL LEADERSHIP AND MAINTAIN ORDER AND DISCIPLINE LARGELY BY THEMSELVES.

4. CAMP, HOWEVER, IS NOT A HAPPY PLACE. EXCEPT FOR NECESSARY HOSPITAL VISITS, NO VIETNAMESE ARE PERMITTED OUTSIDE CAMP, AND ONE MONTH'S INTERNMENT HAS INFUSED ATMOSPHERE OF LETHARGY AND PASSIVITY. REFUGEES LIVE FROM MEAL TO MEAL. LYING ON MATS OR TALKING LISTLESSLY BETWEEN MEALS. ONLY ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES ARE TWO ENGLISH CLASSES, SPARSELY ATTENDED.

5. MORE THAN SIMPLE ENNUI, HOWEVER, PERVASIVE MOOD IS DEEP DESPAIR. MOST REFUGEES DO NOT KNOW WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS NOW ARE, OR WORSE, KNOW THEY ARE DEAD. JOURNEY TO PUSAN HAS BEEN LONG AND HARD, BEGINNING FOR SOME TWO MONTHS AGO IN DANANG. MANY DID NOT EXPECT TO SURVIVE THEIR FLIGHT; SOME WONDER WHY THEY, AND NOT OTHERS, DID SURVIVE. REFUGEES DID NOT APPROACH CONSULAR OFFICER VIGOROUSLY AND INSISTENTLY AS EXPECTED, BUT WERE MEEK AND COMPLIANT. THOSE TOLD THEY DO NOT QUALIFY SLIPPED QUICKLY AWAY; SOME WEPT. REFUGEES ARE A BEWILDERED AND FRIGHTENED PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST ALL SENSE OF CONTROL OVER THEIR LIVES.

6. SOME LEADERS GAVE VENT TO UNDERLYING ANGER. "THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 04104 100658Z

U.S. SPENT \$150 BILLION TO DESTROY OUR COUNTRY. WHY CAN'T YOU SPEND A PITTANCE TO HELP US NOW?" SEVERAL FORMER U.S. EMPLOYEES WHO TERMINATED PRIOR TO GENERAL EVACUATION WERE QUIETLY BITTER THAT THEY WERE NOT ELIGIBLE. PEOPLE WITH SPONSORS BUT LACKING ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS WERE STUNNED, LOOKED BLANKLY AT NOW WORTHLESS LETTERS FROM AMERICANS ASSURING SPONSORSHIP. MANY WONDERED WHY THE U.S. WAS DENYING THEM THE CON-

SIDERATION GIVEN TO REFUGEES WHO WERE ABLE TO REACH
U.S.XHBNIL AND FEEL VICTIMIZED BY A TRAGIC TWIST OF
FATE: THEY BOARDED THE WORN BOAT.

7. CAPT LE KIM SA, COMMANDER OF RVN LCM-8 WHOSE CREW
AND PASSENGERS WERE RESCUED BY KOREAN FREIGHTER TWIN
DRAGON MADE ELOQUENT PLEA THAT HIS CHARGES BE GIVEN
CONSIDERATION. HIS SHIP WAS ATTEMPTING RENDEZVOUS
WITH 7TH FLEET WHEN IT SANK. MANY OF HIS CHARGES DO
NOT QUALIFY UNDER PRESENT CRITERIA.

8. REFUGEE LEADERS RELATE THAT THE FRENCH CAME TO CAMP
FIRST AND ACCEPTED ALL INTELLIGENTSIA; CANADIANS THEN
CAME AND SELECTED BUSINESSMEN; PEOPLE NOW FEEL THAT
THE AMERICANS HAVE COME TO TAKE ALL OTHERS. REPEATED
CLEAR WARNINGS BY CONSULAR OFFICER THAT ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA ARE ABSOLUTE FAILED TO DISPEL LINGERING HOPE
THAT U.S. WILL SOMEDAY TAKE THEM.

9. EMBASSY NOW PROCESSING ELIGIBLE REFUGEES
AND WILL RELAY INFORMATION PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL.
FUTURE FOR 400 LACKING OPTIONS IS BLEAK, FOR EVEN
IF ROKG WERE WILLING RESETTLE THEM INESCAPABLE FACTS
OF KOREAN SOCIETY PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF HARMONIOUS
SETTLEMENT. EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATIONS THAT UNHCR
OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS WILL BE ABLE TO
TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION. FORESEE THAT THESE 400 WILL
CONTINUE TO VIEW U.S. AS LAST DESPERATE HOPE AND THAT
ROKG, MORE OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR REFUGEES THAN DESIRE TO
EVADE RESPONSIBILITIES, WILL MOUNT PRESSURE ON U.S. TO
ACCEPT THEM.
SNEUNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, INSTRUCTIONS, PAROLE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL04104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750201-1001
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750664/aaaacgph.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITFE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 133652
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINESE PAROLEES
TAGS: SREF, VS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006